

ORIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A 293 NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, DODD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: Feb 10, 68

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: 2/2-8/68

REF

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
FEB 15 1968

1. By Guatemalan standards, the country enjoyed something of a breathing spell this week so far as subversive activity was concerned. The police rounded up several suspects in connection with last week's bombings, and the capital was spared any major new incidents. A bomb exploded in the doorway of the leading daily PRENSA LIBRE on February 7, but no one was hurt. There were several fires around the country, including four in Guatemala City, but none of them was attributed or seemed attributable to terrorists; the racetrack fire did appear to have been deliberately started, but for non-political reasons. Electricity failed in parts of the capital on February 7, but the Empresa Eléctrica discovered and repaired what its manager said was a purely mechanical failure in short order.

2. Outside the capital, six murders were reportedly discovered or committed, and a couple of robberies and gangland-type assaults took place in the rather lawless south coast region. There were two alleged kidnappings of possible political significance.

3. Of course, rumors were rampant--especially since AALAPSO had declared February 6 a "day of solidarity with Guatemala"--and compelled the government to reassure the citizenry that every effort was being made to protect lives and property. People continued to cooperate with the authorities and appreciate their efforts, but the fatalistic feeling was widespread that irrational violence might erupt any time and any place for a long time to come.

Enclosure: List of Incidents

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE

Contents and Classification Approved

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LIST OF INCIDENTS

- Jan. 29 - Quezaltenango Rural Social Service School teacher disappears. Apparently political.
- 30 - Two shot-up bodies identified as Romeo Medina Morales and Teodoro Torres Hernández, found near Mataquescuintla.
- Feb. 1 - Police arrest 7 "subversives" in Zone 5, capital, raid.
- 1 - Large group of armed men reportedly ransack poor home, kidnap elderly occupant, Z. 8, capital. Motive unclear.
- 2 - Young man, José Armando Salguero Valenzuela, kidnapped in poor zone of city. Possibly political.
- 2 - Armed gang of 8 stop car in San Pablo, San Marcos, kill 2 occupants including customs (hacienda) policeman, severely injure third, rob Q300, flee. One later captured. Appear to be common criminals.
- 3 - Three unidentified armed men rob Production Promotion Institute (INFOP) bank in Retalhuleu of Q18,000, get away.
- 3 - Fire in Zone 2, capital, home.
- 4 - Fire in Almacén Darosa downtown, capital. No obvious political motive; story still obscure.
- 5 - Fifteen-man gang again terrorizes Nueva Concepción homesteading area in Tiquisate, assaults two homes, kills one man, injures 2 women, escapes.
- 5 - Unprominent young man disappears in capital.
- 6 - Shot-up unidentified body found in Tecún Umán, San Marcos.
- 6 - Major fire in Malacatán, San Marcos, starts in garbage dump.
- 6 - Capital racetrack bleachers burn. No evidence of political motive.
- 6 - Police catch one Adrian Valle Hernández burning "subversive literature" ready for mailing, arrest him.
- 6 - PR functionary in Iztapa, Escuintla, kidnapped from bus by armed men on road to Escuintla. Unsolved.

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- Feb. 6 - Police appropriate "abandoned" car with "foreign" license plate, find in it 2 grenades, 2 rifles, bullets, army uniforms and ID card belonging to Guatemalan Infantry Lieutenant Clodoveo Domínguez de Leon.
- 7 - PRENSA LIBRE newspaper office bombed, no one hurt.
- 7 - Electricity fails in parts of capital; failure later attributed to mechanical failure.
- 8 - Forest fire in posh Z. 14, capital, apparently accidental.

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